

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 3-10 are pending in the application, with claims 3 and 4 being the independent claims. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,559, 898 to Citta (hereinafter Citta). Claims 1-2 have been canceled rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 3-10 have been indicated to be allowable, and therefore Applicants request that this application be passed to allowance.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey T. Helvey  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,757

Date: 1/22/04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
JTH/agj  
SKGF\DCI\200507.1

A